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CONFERENCE ON FORECASTING EARTHQUAKES

A special conference was called recently to survey the measures taken by the Geophysical Institute of the Academy of Sciences USSR to devise methods of forecasting earthquakes. The conference was attended by directors of USSR seismic stations and by representatives of interested institutions of the union republics.

The introductory speech was by G. A.. Gamburtsev, Corresponding Member, Academy of Sciences USSR. The following reports were then heard: V. V. Belou-"Geological Studies in the Problem of Finding Methods of Forecasting Earthquakes"; Ye. F. Savarenskiy's "The Mechanism of Seismogenesis"; V. F. Bonchkov-skiy's "The Connection between Tilts of the Earth's Surface and Earthquakes"; A. G. Kalashnikov's "Possible Connections between Magnetic and Seismic Phonomena"; and A. G. Ivanov's "Earthquakes and Electrical Phenomena."

Reports touching upon the work of geophysical expeditions were as follows: G. A. Gamburtsev's report "The Organization of Geological Studies for Finding Methods of Forecasting Earthquakes in the Northern Tien Shan Region", V. V. Belousov's "The Geology of the Region of the Tien Shan Expedition". V. F. Bonchkovskiy reported on the results of the Garm expedition and prospects for further studies in this region. G. P. Gorshkov reported on the immediate tasks of seismotectonic studies in Kopet-Dag. In a supplementary report, S. I. Masarskiy cold of a study of tremors following the Ashkhabad earthquake.

All geophysical, geological, and geodesic studies made in this direction are to be strictly coordinated, since positive results are to be expected only from a comprehensive study of this complex problem. The search for methods of forecasting earthquakes will be the basic undertaking of laboratories of the Geophysical Institute, Academy of Sciences USSR, as well as of geophysical expeditions.

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